

June 6, 1978

Memo to File:

Re: Ziegler Chemical Corporation
Weaver Mine
Sec. 14, T. 10 S., R. 25 E.
Uintah County, Utah
ACT/047/012

This proposed underground gilsonite mine was inspected on May 17th 1978 by Pat Driscoll and Ron Daniels with the objective of comparing the submitted Mining and Reclamation Plan with the field conditions existing on the proposed mine site. A small amount of surface disturbance (approximately 1 acre) has already been conducted on the Weaver Mine. It is located in a narrow canyon in Uintah County and is about one mile from the Colorado Border. Access to the mine was gained by travelling down Hell's Hole Canyon from the main U-A, U-B access road, south of Bonanza. The access road from Hell's Hole Canyon travels up over Weaver Ridge and subsequently drops into Weaver Canyon. The road is a single track unsurfaced, steep four-wheel drive road.

The surface workings in Weaver Canyon are located near an existing pipeline, apparently a gas pipe-line that travels north into the Natural Buttes unit. The mining plans indicate no conflicts with this pipeline from the actual underground gilsonite mine.

Vegetative types in the general area are indicative of the pinyon juniper and sagebrush types. Plant species identified on the ground were sagebrush, atriplex, greasewood, pinyon, juniper, Indian ricegrass, and crested wheat grass. The latter species was seeded on the gas pipe-line right-of-way and subsequent survival was very good. Grazing pressure in this area appear to be very light, and wildlife use minimal. The Mining and Reclamation Plan for this proposed operation is very similar to that incorporated on the Ziegler Chemical Ute-32 mine. The species to be used in reclamation should be similar to those used in the Ute-32. The Division will accept a seed mixture containing species recommended by the BLM for this project since the mine is a Federal Lease.

The Division is prepared to issue tentative approval for this operation as far as the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act is concerned. Final approval will be issued upon confirmation from the BLM that the lessor, the Federal Government, has approved the Mining and Reclamation Plan.

RONALD W. DANIELS
COORDINATOR OF MINED
LAND DEVELOPMENT

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